

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07

INT-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 COME-00 /074 W

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R 201606Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5714

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16064

E.O. 11652: XEDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, IC, US

SUBJECT: UK - ICELAND FISHING TALKS

REF: (A) REYKHAVIK 1166 (B) REYKJAVIK 1187

(C) BONN 17081

1. DURING MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT TOBER 17 WITH DCM, ROY HATTERSLEY, MINISTER OF STATE IN FCO, COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON SECOND ROUND OF UK-ICELAND FISHING TALKS WHIC/HWILL BEGIN IN LONDON OCTOBER 23. HATTERSLEY, WHO WILL HEAD THE BRITISH SIDE IN THE DISCUSSIONS, SAID THAT THIS WEEK'S EXCHANGES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT RESOLVE CURRENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT EXISTING UK-IAELAND FISHING AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY RUN OUT NOVEMBER 13. THERE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, IN THAT EVENT BE ANOTHER "COD WAR". BOTH SIDES ARE COMMITTED TO

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PREVENTING THAT POSSIBILITY, AND, MOREOVER, ICELAND HAS

TOO MUCH TO GAIN FROM A NEW AGREEMENT TO ADOPT RIGID AND RECALCITRANT NEGOTIATING STANCE. NEW PACT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE REACHED, BUT ONLY AFTER ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS IN ICELAND AND ULTIMATE ESCALATION TO PRIME MINISTER LEVEL. UNTIL NEW TERMS ARE SETTLED, BRITISH ARE PREPARED TO BE RHETORICALLY RESTRAINED IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND TO TRY TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH WOULD PRODUCE AIR OF CONFRONTATION. BUT HMG WILL NOT, HATTERSLEY EMPHASIZED, ACCEPT UNILATERALLY IMPOSED GOI EXCLUSION OF UK FISHING BETWEEN 12 AND 50 MILES OFF THE ICELANDIC COAST. THAT, HE SAID, "WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE POLITICALLY PMSSIBLE IN THIS COUNTRY."

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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